

THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024 AT 6:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT WERE BRYAN COLLIER, DON ADAMS, AND KENNY HALE. LINDA PRUITT, COUNTY AUDITOR; DEB VERLEY, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT; JOSH MESSMER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR; AND ANNE COWGUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY, WERE ALSO PRESENT.

PLEDGE - *in Honor of Sammy Davis, Jr., a Mooresville resident and Medal of Honor recipient*

PRAYER – *Don Adams read a prayer composed by Lisa MacPhee, Morgan County Soil & Water*

MINUTES

Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the February 5, 2024 minutes. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

CLERK’S REPORT

The Board accepted the report as presented.

ANNUAL CONTRACT SWCD

Lisa MacPhee and Doug Peine, Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District, thanked the Board for their support they give the district. Ms. MacPhee stated that the agreement covers everything from advising landowners on erosion issues to youth programs, they also work with conservation partners in Indiana, the State Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and federal programs to bring grant funds and conservation into Morgan County. In addition to the educational services they provide. They had a grant through Clean Water Indiana and were able to bring in \$32,400 over the last three years. Ms. MacPhee handed out information showing how much sediment can be prevented by planting cover crops and implementing no-till. They started an urban soil health group and received a grant for that. They have provided approximately \$4,000 worth of free soil testing and services to people who have vegetable gardens to insure it is safe and productive. They have 3,400 trees to give away this year. They passed out 3,000 trees last year after the tornado. They received a \$32,000 grant from DNR last year to remove a log jam and debris from the east fork of White Lick Creek in Mooresville. This can prevent future flooding and erosion. They are working to expand youth education and hope to see a part time contractual employee to help grow this area. The support the Board of Commissioners provides is appreciated. Don Adams asked what “T by 2000” meant to them. Mr. Adams stated that “T” stands for tons of soil and the effort was to keep the soil from eroding by no till practices. Mr. Adams stated that this practice allowed him to farm 350 acres while also teaching school. Mr. Adams’ time on the SWCD Board gave him an opportunity to meet Joe Peden, a district conservationist, who has the Children’s Farm Festival in Monroe County. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the agreement. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

BAKER TILLY INVESTMENT AGREEMENT

Josh Messmer stated that this agreement is for the bond proceeds that were closed earlier this month. This agreement allows the county to invest the funds and keep to the draw schedule, so they can gain the maximum interest until it’s time to use the money. The cost of this is based on the investment; 10 basis points spread out over the year. They will need authorized representatives; in the past this has been Terry Clelland, Morgan County Treasurer and Josh Messmer with Linda Pruitt attesting the documents. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the agreement and appoint representatives as mentioned. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

SCHNEIDER AGREEMENT AMENDMENT

Laura Parker, Morgan County Plan Commission Director, stated that the county has an agreement with Schneider Geospatial for hosting the county’s GIS information. They also do the online permitting. Prior to this system, there was a legacy system that tracked permits and in order to carry this over and implement it into this system, this amendment to the agreement needs approval. There is no extra cost for this service. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the amendment to the agreement and to authorize Don Adams to sign. Motion carried 3-0.

SR44 UNOFFICIAL DETOUR

Justin Schneck, Morgan County Highway Engineer, stated that INDOT has an upcoming bridge project on State Road 44 just west of the Morgan County/Johnson County line. They anticipate extra traffic along Nast Chapel, Old Morgantown and Peavine Roads. This will not be a sign detour, but is the closest route around the project that local traffic will take. INDOT sent an agreement stating that the county can monitor the conditions of the unofficial detour and compare the precondition to the post condition and if there is any damage, they will help with repairs. Bryan Collier made a motion to accept the proposal. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

EMPG FY 2023 GRANT AGREEMENT

Josh Messmer stated that EMA applies for this grant each year and is used for employee salaries. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the grant as outlined. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

ORDINANCE #2024-3 FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION

Kenny Hale stated that he had not reviewed the ordinance. Bryan Collier stated that pictures were not included to help with the verbiage. Ms. Parker replied that Dr. Seuss was not available. Mr. Collier stated that he would have to rely on the expertise of the director and former director regarding this ordinance and made a motion to table the ordinance until the next meeting. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Ms. Parker noted that there is an April deadline. Motion carried 3-0.

ORDINANCE #2024-2 TECHNICAL DESIGN STANDARDS – 2nd Reading

Justin Schneck, Morgan County Highway Engineer, asked if there were any questions regarding the ordinance. There were none. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve Ordinance #2024-2 An Ordinance Adopting and Implementing Morgan County Technical Design Standards. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

FARM LEASES

Kenny Hale noted that one of the leases lists a parcel number that has a house on it and it hasn't been farmed. Mr. Hale suggested that this parcel number be removed. Mr. Hale stated that some of the leases had complete legal descriptions and some did not and asked that all leases have complete descriptions. Most of the leases are FEMA properties. Kenny Hale made a motion to remove the parcel number of the house from the lease and to include legal descriptions for all leases. Anne Cowgur asked if all parcels, including the house, were included on the bid. Mr. Hale stated that they were all included, but the leasee has not farmed that parcel since they have been leasing the property. Bryan Collier stated that he will be seeing the leasee later and did not think it would be a problem; if it is, he will bring it back up for discussion. Bryan Collier made a motion to accept the contracts with the proposed amendments; the long legal descriptions and omitting the parcel with the house that has not been farmed. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Don Adams stated that they have some work to do in the next three years. Mr. Collier stated that for liability reasons, they need to exclude hunting on the property for the next bidding. Motion carried 3-0.

PURCHASE AGREEMENT – Radio Equipment

Scott Hamilton, 911 Dispatch Director, was present to request approval of a purchase agreement for dispatch radio equipment. Anne Cowgur stated that she has reviewed it and added an addendum that included language regarding e-verify and non-discrimination. This addendum can be used for other contracts. There is a finance proposal that will be ready for approval at a future meeting, along with the lease agreement. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the addendum to the Morgan County 911 Telex Dispatch Console System Purchase Agreement and Maintenance Contract Terms and Conditions with ECS. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Hamilton stated that during the recent snowstorm, the dispatch center processed 348 911 calls from 3 pm to 11 pm. Two hundred forty of the calls were in the first four hours; they were processing a call a minute. There were 158 CAD calls and 108 of those were in the first four hours. Most of the traffic regarded state roads.

TORT CLAIM

Bryan Collier made a motion to send the Stafford tort claim to the insurance company if necessary. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTY

Bryan Collier thanked the Highway Department, 911 Dispatch Center, EMA and Sheriff's Department for their efforts during the snowstorm. He had one complaint and hundreds of affirmations. Mr. Collier suggested that people not listen to the one, and listen to the hundreds. A federal highway was shut down south of town for two to three hours; a state highway was shut

down for over two hours (252); State Road 67 was shut down; there were 13 wrecks within a 20-30 span of time and first responders functioned very, very well to handle the situation. Once people were off the roads, they stayed off the roads and this allowed time for plows to do their jobs.

FINANCIAL TERMS – *Radio Equipment Purchase*

Anne Cowgur noted that in the information Mr. Hamilton presented, there was a document with financial terms and this requires approval. Bryan Collier made a motion to accept the five-year terms of the agreement and to authorize Don Adams to sign. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Bryan Collier made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

Morgan County Board of Commissioners

Don Adams

Attest:

Bryan A. Collier

Linda Pruitt, Morgan Co. Auditor

Kenny Hale